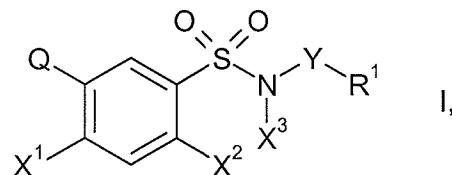


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A compound which is a benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I



in which the variables are as defined below:

X¹ is hydrogen or halogen;

X² is chlorine;

X³ is hydrogen; or C₁-C₆-alkyl,

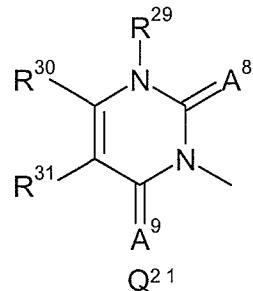
Y is a group -C(A)B;

A is oxygen;

B is oxygen or sulfur;

R¹ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl, C₃-C₇-cycloalkyl, C₄-C₈-alkoxy, or phenyl-C₁-C₄ alkyl, wherein C₁-C₈ alkyl may be substituted by C₁-C₈-alkoxy or C₁-C₈ alkoxy carbonyl.

Q is



A⁸ and A⁹ are oxygen;

R²⁹ is hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, or amino;

R³⁰ is C₁-C₆ haloalkyl;

R³¹ is hydrogen;

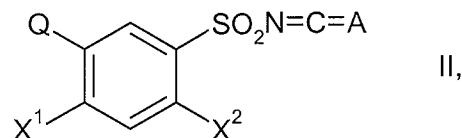
or an agriculturally useful salt thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) A compound of claim 16, in which X¹ is hydrogen, fluorine or chlorine.

18. (Canceled.)

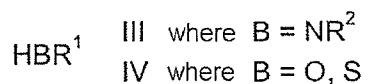
19. (Canceled.)

20. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a compound of claim 16, where X³ is hydrogen, which comprises reacting a benzenesulfonyl iso(thio)cyanate of the formula II



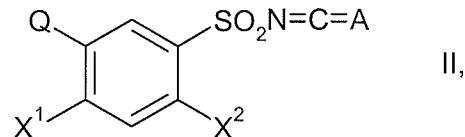
where X^1 , X^2 , A and Q are as defined in claim 16,

with an alcohol or thiol of the formula IV



where R^1 is as defined in claim 16.

21. (Withdrawn) A benzenesulfonyl iso(thio)cyanate of the formula II



where X^1 , X^2 , A and Q are as defined in claim 16.

22. (Previously Presented) An herbicidal composition comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 and further comprising auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.

23. (Currently Amended) An herbicidal composition for the desiccation and/or

defoliation of plants, comprising such an amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 that acts as a desiccant and/or defoliant, and further comprising ~~growth regulating compounds~~ auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.

24. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing herbicidally effective compositions, which comprises mixing a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 and auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.
25. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing compositions having desiccant and/or defoliant action, which comprises mixing a desiccant and/or defoliant effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 16 and auxiliaries customary for formulating crop protection agents.
26. (Withdrawn) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, wherein a herbicidally effective amount of at least one benzenesulfonamide derivative of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I according to claim 16 is allowed to act on the unwanted vegetation, their habitat and/or on their seeds.
27. (Withdrawn) A method for the desiccation and/or defoliation of plants, which comprises allowing a desiccant and/or defoliant effective amount of at least one

compound according to claim 16 to act on the plants.

28-39. (Canceled.)